

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Ex Parte Quayle action which closed prosecution on the merits except for the formal matters addressed therein. The Application has been placed in condition for allowance by the present Amendment, and an early indication of the same would be greatly appreciated.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-26 are allowed in connection with present application. As the various minor informalities indicated by the Examiner have been corrected by the present response, withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections and allowance of claims 1-26 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's indication of consideration of the prior art figure submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 2, 2004. Additionally, Applicants direct Examiner's attention to a Supplement Information Statement filed concurrently herewith. Consideration of the publications enclosed herewith and an indication thereof by return initialed and signed PTO 1449 Form is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The Office Action objected to portions of the specification. With respect to Items A-C, Applicants have amended the specification to remove these inconsistencies. With respect to Item D, Applicants have confirmed the claims 25-26 are proper pending claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the minor clarifying amendments made to independent claim 1 and dependent claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit these claims do not affect the scope of the claims, are non-narrowing amendments, and have not been made for any reason related to patentability. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The Official Action objected to the drawings because they fail to show 44 as described in the specification. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to formal drawings for Figures 1-4. Entry of these formal drawings for the purposes of printing on the published patent is respectfully requested. Applicants submit five (5) Replacement Sheets of Formal Drawings, Figures 1-4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings.

Comments on Reasons for Allowance

In reply to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, provided with the Notice of Allowance dated February 10, 2005, Applicants submit the following comments.

The Examiner offers reasons why the claims of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record. Although Applicants agree that the various claimed limitations mentioned in the claims are not taught or suggested by the prior art taken either singly or in combination, Applicants wish to emphasize that it is the language of each claim, including the interrelationships and interconnections between various claimed elements which is

allowable over the prior art of record, and not the Examiner's paraphrasing of claim features which are not present in any of the allowed claims.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, based upon the foregoing non-substantive amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-26 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

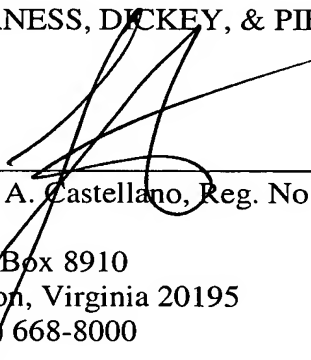
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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JAC/pjd